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Remarks

Claims 1 and 2-22 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original claim 2, which has been canceled. Claims 13, 14, renumbered claim 17, and renumbered claim 18 have been amended to conform to the amendment of claim 1. The duplicate claim 14 and 15-21 have been renumbered according to the Examiner's amendment to be claims 15-22, respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 2-6 were found allowable for the reason that none of the references disclosed taught or suggested a silver alloy comprising at least 85% silver and containing each of zinc, copper, indium, tin and iron.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102-103

Claims 1, 8, 13-16, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by either PCT Publication No. WO 95/14112 to Eccles ("Eccles") or U.S. Patent No. 4,973,446 to Bernhard et al. ("Bernhard"). Claim 1, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 have been rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,021,214 to Sasaki et al. ("Sasaki"). Claims 7, 9, 10-12 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Eccles. Claims 7, 9-12, and 17-20 have been rejected as obvious in view of Bernhard. Applicant respectfully submits that these grounds of rejection are obviated in view of the amendment of claim 1.

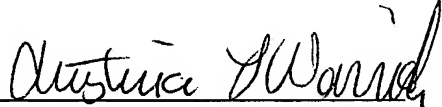
Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which has been found allowable and independent claim 17 has been similarly amended. All remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 17. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that all claims are allowable in view of the art and requests withdrawal of the rejections under Sections 102 and 103.

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No fees are believed to be owed with this amendment, however, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No.08-2461.

If there are any questions regarding this submission, they may be directed to Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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